

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>21208WO</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. <b>PCT/EP 03/12410</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>03.11.2003</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>15.11.2002</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC <b>C07C251/24</b>		
Applicant <b>DSM IP ASSETS B.V. et al.</b>		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).


These annexes consist of a total of     sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I    ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II   ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV   ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V    ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI   ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  <b>09.06.2004</b>	Date of completion of this report  <b>09.02.2005</b>
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer  <b>Lauro, P</b>  Telephone No. +49 89 2399-8288



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/2410**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-12 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-16 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/EP 03/12410**

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**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;  
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: DATABASE WPI Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; AN 1986-337209 XP002236372 & SE 8 501 132 A (PERSTORP AB)  
D2: US-A-4 172 846 (BOESTEN WILHELMUS H J) 30 October 1979 (1979-10-30)  
D3: WONJAE LEE: 'Chromatographic separation of the enantiomers of amino acid esters as benzophenone imine derivatives' BULLETIN OF THE KOREAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, vol. 19, no. 7, 1998, pages 715-717, XP002236371

2. The process as claimed in the present application refers to the conversion of amines to imines before separating the optically active isomers by chromatography.

3. **Novelty**

D1 discloses the separation using liquid chromatography of isomers of amines which are previously derivatized in order to facilitate the process.

D2 discloses the preparation of Schiff bases in order to separate optically enriched glycine derivatives but it does not refer to chromatographic methods for the separation, which is done by solubility. D3 discloses chromatographic methods for the separation of enantiomers of amino acid esters as benzophenone imine derivatives. Novelty is acknowledged re D1 to D3.

4. **Inventive step**

The problem underlying the present application appears to reside in the provision of a method for separating enantiomerically enriched Schiff bases.

In view of the process disclosed in the closest state of the art D1, which requires the derivatization of the amines (e.g. forming ring structures which are structurally different from the Schiff bases of the present application), the process of the present application which avoids any steps of derivatization appears to involve an inventive step.